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AND
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ADMINISTRATION

U.S. Census Bureau

This release contains sensitive economic
data not to be released before 10:00 a.m. Tuesday,
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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products
November 2004

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary November steel imports were **\$2.1 billion (2.8 million metric tons)**. This was virtually the same value and a decrease of 0.1 million metric tons from the preliminary October totals of \$2.1 billion (2.9 million metric tons).

The October to November change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in wire rods and line pipe greater than 16 inches in diameter. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with China, Mexico, Ukraine, and India. Increases occurred primarily with Turkey and Australia.

The year to date final statistics through October 2004 showed steel imports of 26.7 million metric tons, compared with 17.7 million metric tons through October 2003. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; hot rolled sheets; and wire rods. The largest country increases were with Russia, Brazil, Mexico, and Turkey.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is January 25, 2004